

# The Athenian Mercury:

Saturday, February 10. 1694.

Quest. 1. **I** Earnestly desire your Friendly Advice and Impartial Judgment on the following Case: I am offer'd to be Tutor to the two only Sons of a Baronet deceas'd, whose Estate is above 1500 l. per Ann. my Friends are very urgent with me to accept it, but I am not at present inclin'd to it for these Reasons: First, The Stipend they proffer me (I think) is too mean; but 20 l. per Annum. For being in Orders, I Judge, they will make me do the Duty of a Chaplain; and if so, to assign no more for so many Services, seems (to me at least) unbecoming a Gentleman to offer, as also insufficient for a decent Support. I have been at great Pains and Charge too, in my Education, and am (or at least I think so) in some measure pretty well accomplish'd for such an Employment: Now, I can by no means think 20 l. per Annum, an Equivalent (which is hardly the Interest) of my Education, or a sufficient Reward for the Pains and Trouble of a Tutor. For the Children are very young; and tho' at first this may seem to make it the less Labour, yet it appears to me so troublesome to beat the first Rudiments of Learning into Children, and to be oblig'd to comply with all their Humours, looks so like playing the Fool, that I think it deserves much more than is offered in the Case. Again, I suppose they will be ashamed to offer the Seventh or Eighth Tutor no more, and so many different Tutors the poor Children must have, (if not more) before they come to 21 (for who of any tolerable Sense or Ambition would fix and dwell upon 20 l. per Annum) And if so, why may not I reasonably demand more, who (I suppose) am expected first to bear with all the Fooleries of Children, and then to break 'em, and introduce the first *Semina Literarum*? Why must they have more than I who but build on my Foundation, and who come to Employment thro' my Pains, more easie, and in it self more Pleasant and Creditable? 4. It is to be at Home; where besides the Confinement I reckon I must undergo, how much I shall be plagu'd between the Fondness of a Mother, and the Impertinence of my young Masters Relations or Servants, who are apt to be censuring the Tutors Performances, I can't tell; but the Complaints of some of my Acquaintance, who have been very hardly, nay, even unjustly dealt with in such Stations, make me very fearful, how I run my self into a Family, where possibly, I may not be able to live with any Honour or Satisfaction, or yet to get out without having my Temper, my Manners or Abilities call'd in question. For these Reasons, Gentlemen, I am yet in the Mind to refuse the present Offer; But however to comply somewhat with the Importunities of my Friends, and being yet less inclin'd to Marry, and take upon me the Cure of Souls, and perhaps being peculiarly fitted (more than every one) for such an Employment, by my Natural Genius, the Course of my Studies, and the New Designs which I have lately laid down for my succeeding Years to aim at, I should not be unwilling. Well, these Demands granted, 1. A Salary of 50 l. per Ann. to support my self suitably to the Honour of my Character, and the Family I live in; by which being Vindicated from Contempt or the Fear of Poverty, I may be able without Distraction to study the Temper and Improvement of my Young Pupils. 2. As absolute a Command over them as may consist with Prudence, and their Obedience to their Parents. To use my own method in teaching, to recommend what Books I please, either for their Task or Diversion: Not to have the Mother come into my room, where I am to instruct them, to take account how many Lessons, or how long, nor to listen at the Door

whether I Chide or Whip 'em too severely; these to be left to my Discretion; for if I am not a better Judge of any of these things than a Nurse, a Sister or a Mother, I am not fit to be a Tutor. 3. To have the Command of the Coach and a pair of Horses, not to go to a Cock-fight or a Horse-Race, but to Visit the Wifeliest and best Bred Gentlemen in the Neighbourhood, and bring my little Masters acquainted with Men and Things, which will at once open their Souls, and be some sweet Diversion after the Torture of Nouns and Participles: Tho' all this may look big, yet 'tis (I think) absolutely Necessary, and the Estate will bear it. I am not greedy of Money, nor do I desire so great a Salary to gratifie my Pride or my Pleasure, but that my Thoughts may be more at leisure, and the more exalted to Inspire my Pupils with such Sentiments as may make them good Christians and True Gentlemen, and I will promise not to leave 'em till I have made them fit for any Company or any Capacity in the Kingdom; but the Proffer of 20 l. per Ann. looks so pittiful, that I may safely prognosticate that they will be pure Gentlemen or Scholars who are Taught by such who will submit to such Drudgery for so poor a Reward: Where the Tutor is not enabled to live like a Man, there it can never be expected the Pupils should be overladen with Sense. I have fairly stated my Case to you, and make you Judges both of their Proffers and my Demands, which are most reasonable: For I declare that after all the Persuasions of Friends and Interest, the Reasons above seem to me Convincing, however I am resolv'd once more to be guided by you, and to take that Course which you shall judge most Advantageous and most Honourable?

Ans. Since you have desir'd our Advice, (tho' it appears to us that you are much more capable of advising your self) We shall also desire the Liberty of Printing the whole Letter, which is so exact a Pattern for a Tutor's Accomplishments, and Methods, and Ends of Teaching, that we doubt not but that it will very much oblige the World. As for your own Determinations, We think We need not to tell you that common Prudence engages every one to do the best for himself, and and not to throw off every thing because We can't have what we would: What you have urg'd is very reasonable, but Reason finds not all the Friendship and Entertainment which a very few think it deserves. There's only one thing more to be consider'd in the Case, and that is the Common Providence of God, who tho' he makes us Offers of things, and gives us Reason to make use of it, yet has his own Ends and Designs in it, making all terminate well for such as do their Duty in any State of Life, tho' never so Contemptible, and when he Judges 'em fit for a better, he wants not means to put 'em into it.

Quest. 2. What's the most likely to render a Man Unhappy?

Ans. Himself.

Quest. 3. What think you of the Performance of the Author of The Gentleman's Journal as to his Preface before this New Edition of Rablais? and what real Credit has that Book amongst all Wise and Learned Men?

Ans. Such as please may Consult a Letter directed to that Industrious Author, Printed in his last Journal, which seems to us so proper an Answer to this Question, that

that we can scarce forbear to transcribe it *Verbatim*. To ask after the Reputation of that Book amongst all Ingenious and well-read Persons, argues a great Ignorance of it, because its impossible to know that Book and ask such a Question. Those that please to Consult the Characters and Authorities of so many great Men, which are annexed immediately before the Work it self, may have the latter part of the Question satisfactorily answer'd: As for the Author's particular Performance in a Key to the whole, it shows him to be Master of a great deal of Reading and Industry, to accomplish what so many Learned Men have only wish'd done and hinted at, but always despair'd to find that Pen that durst undertake such a Task, which now seems as Naturally performed as if the Author had been a particular Friend and Intimate of the great Rablais himself.

Quest. 4. *A Lady after she had been in Bed about a Quarter of an Hour, not being in the least inclin'd to sleep, felt something come up the side of her Bed, and lye upon her Feet; she fearing she might neglect to lock the Door, suppos'd it might be a Spaniel Puppy that was in the House, and moving her Feet it went off at the Feet of her Bed, but coming about to the same side it came on again, and plac'd it self on the left side, she lying on the right, near a Quarter of an Hour; she endeavour'd as much as possible to throw it off, but cou'd neither stir nor speak, 'till at length she had power to move, and then it went off at the Feet of the Bed again, but came on the same way the third time, and lay there a considerable while, she being in the same Agony as before, Sweating and Breathing with difficulty, but cou'd not move or speak; at last it left her, but finding in the Morning the Door fast lock'd, and the Dog shut up in his usual place, she was extremely surpris'd, and desires your Opinion what it might be that so disturb'd her?*

Ans. Perhaps she Dreamt, perhaps 'twas Fancy, or Vapours, or perhaps Mrs. Puss a Purring, and leaping off agen as often as she turn'd — For if 'twas a Devil, 'twas a very foolish one, to be Content with such a Cold Place, when he might have crept up and lain warm in her Bosom.

Quest. 5. *Which can the greatest and most lasting Happiness be expected from, Love or Friendship?*

Ans. Singly, Friendship, because where Love is placed upon an Object for Beauty or any little fading Charm, it can never last; but if Merit is the Foundation, that not only commands Esteem, but will be sure to preserve it, and when warm'd by Love must needs give the greatest Felicity: Tho' if alone Friendship gains the day, since Merit

is always supposed to precede it, and the same Cause must always produce the same Effect.

## Advertisements.

**T**He Second Volume of the *French Book of Majesties Royal Priviledge*, and the 3<sup>d</sup>. and 4<sup>th</sup>. are preparing for it; containing an account of all the Perfections that have been in France, during the Reign of Lewis the 14<sup>th</sup>. Those that expect any advantage by the Proposals made concerning this Work, must send in their Subscriptions by the 10<sup>th</sup> of March next, or otherwise 'twill be too late. Proposals are to be had of the Undertaker John Dunton at the Raven in the Poultry, and of most Bookellers in London and the Country.

**A** Sale of all sorts of Plate, Jewels, &c. to the value of 2500 l. divided into 500. Benefited Tickets, from 100 l. to Twenty Shillings, to be mixed with a Proportionable number of Blanks, Proposals at large with numbred Tickets at 2 s 6 d. a piece are to be had of Mr. John Spackman near Northumberland-house, and Mr. John Smith near Norfolk-street in the Strand. Mr. Joseph Wilson, and Mr. James Marryon in Fleet-street. Mr. Nath. Ragdal in Cheap-side at the Kings-head. Mr. Peter Luparte at the upper end of Lombard-street. Mr. Moses Sicklemore at St. Margarets-hill in Southwark, all Goldsmiths.

**O**bservations on the Venereal Disease. By Charles Peter, Chyrurgion: Wherein is Explicated the several Causes and Signs of the Infection; together with the true way of Curing the said Disease, and all the Accidents that attend it. Price Bound One Shilling. Sold by the Author at his House in St. Martins-lane, three Doors from Newports-street.

**E**lixir Magnum Stomachicum: Or, the great Cordial Elixir for the Stomach; of a delicate Flavour, and pleasant bitterish Taste: Not Purging, but Cordial only; to be drunk at any time, (but especially in a Morning) in any Liquor, as Ale, Tea, Mum, Canary, White-Wine, A Dram of Brandy, &c. It makes the best Purl in the World in Ale, and Purl Royal in Sack, and in Tea, &c. very pleasant and wholesome, giving each of them a fragrant smell and taste, far exceeding Purl made of Wormwood, which (being so hot and drying) spoils the Sight, dulls the Brain, and dries up the Blood: This having the Quintessence of all the Ingredients of the bitter Draught (so much in use) in it, with many other excellent Stomachicks and Antiscurvitics brought into so small a quantity, as that 30 or 40 Drops is a Dose; you may make it in an instant your self, in any of the aforesaid Liquors, but White-wine or Tea best, and it much surpasses the common Bitter Potion in pleasantness and virtue: This procures a good Appetite, helps Digestion and all Indispositions of the Stomach, or Sickness, Loathing, Nauseousness (especially after a Surfeit or hard Drinking) strengthening it wonderfully, expels all Wind, purifies the Blood, and destroys the Scurvy beyond any Medicine known, with 3 or 4 Virtues more mentioned in the Bills sold with it, as its excellent use for those that Travel by Sea or Land, &c. to which Bills I refer you, to be had Gratis at the places where 'tis sold. Price One Shilling each Bottle.

'Tis Sold by John Dunton at the Raven in the Poultry; and at these Coffee-houses, Viz. Symonds-lan in Chancery-lane, at Vigners in the Old Pallace-yard, Westminster, Victualling Office at Tower-Hill, Men's at Charing-Cross, Essex at Whitechappel, North's in King-street by Guild-Hall, Richard's at Temple-bar, Smythers in Thomas-street, Will's in Covent Garden, Blacketts at Spittle-fields, Wells at the Postern in Aldermanbury, John's in Fuller's Rents, Buckeridge's without Aldersgate, Hamer's on London-bridge, Brown's at Wapping Old-stairs, John's by the Kings-bench, Smith's at Lambeth, by the Church, by Mr. W. Collet Jun. near the Hermitage, Tobacco-nist; Mr. Levington, Fruiterer at the Royal Exchange, and Tho. Howkins in George-yard in Lombard-street; the Author having appointed him, only (beside himself) to Sell in Wholesale, any Person wanting it to Dispose of or Sell again, may be there furnished, with Allowance for selling. 'Tis sold by some One Book-seller in most of the Cities, and in many great Towns in England.